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STATE FOR NEA/ARPI, NEA/PA, NEA/AIA, INR/NESA, R/MR, I/GNEA, B/BXN,  
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SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION: THE NEW GOVERNMENT EMERGES

Selected Headlines

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11. Saturday, 11 February 2006

-- Al-Qabas front page "Amir presides over first meeting of the new government today"; "New government adopts the program of its predecessor"; "Parliamentary blocs begin meetings to crystallize their positions"

-- Al-Qabas p. 6 "New ministers in their offices today"

-- Al-Qabas p. 8 "What do the citizens want from the new government?"; "In a public opinion poll conducted by Al-Qabas on government priorities: Housing issue topped the list"; "Dr. Haila Al-Mekaimi: Continuing reform and combating corruption"

-- Al-Qabas p. 79 "Dr. Ahmad Al-Rubei: Free of charge advice to new ministers"

-- Al-Rai Al-Aam front page "Islamists: Excluding liberals from the new government is not astonishing"; "Ministers will be sworn in before the Amir today. Date for parliamentary sessions will be set by Al-Khorafi and Sharar"; "Al-Khanna lashes out at liberals"

-- Al-Watan front page "Liberals prefer to postpone statements on new cabinet line-up"; "Swearing in by Kuwait Government ends 'shares' claims"; "New cabinet line-up widely accepted by parliamentarians"; "Mohammed Al-Bossairi: Government represents all Kuwaitis"; "Salem Al-Hammad: Government for all Kuwait"; "Jassem Al-Kandari: Government closest to political representation"; "Bou Ramya: We rebuff 'shares' system"; "Hot issues awaiting Zalzala"; "Crown Prince will call on Mubarak Al-Abdullah today"

-- Al-Watan p. 31 "Chairmen of charity societies and committees congratulates Crown Prince and Prime Minister"

-- Al-Watan p. 86 "Dr. Walid Al-Tabtabaei: Congratulations and warning to the Minister"

-- Al-Anbaa front page "Dr. Al-Zalzala and Al-Muhailbi talk about their plans for their ministries"

-- Al-Anbaa p. 8 "Khalifa Al-Khorafi sorry for absence of Bader, Al-Hamad and Al-Hajji"

-- Al-Anbaa p. 11 "Al-Mohri: Government formation included all spectrums of the Kuwaiti people"

-- Al-Seyassah p. 14 "Kuwaiti citizens respect Nawaf Al-Ahmad and Nasser Al-Mohammed"

Block Quotes

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12. Thursday, 2 February 2006

-- Dr. Ayed Al-Manaa wrote for the moderate daily Al-Watan under the title "Good choice": "His Highness's choices for Crown Prince and Prime Minister are good choices. Both men are publicly known and have worked since their youth in public service. They have ascended through the ranks during which period they experienced massive political developments. They have taken part in making important decisions and worked through major events in Kuwait's contemporary history. We are not exaggerating when we say that the two are experts in domestic, regional, and international developments. They have participated and worked with these events and developments since the 1960's. They have both seen Kuwait turn from poor desert Emirate into an oil-rich constitutional state. We must not ignore the negative side effects of the transformation from the simple life to the luxurious one; for example, the dependence on government employment as the major source and possibly the only of income. We have no doubt that by choosing the two Shaykhs His Highness the Amir not only exercised his constitutional right, but also took into consideration each man's experience, competence, and good relations with the people and the national assembly of Kuwait.

-- Al-Anbaa staff wrote on front page under the title "Difficult challenges": "Despite the fact that the 22nd government of Kuwait will only be in power for one and a half year, the first government since Shaykh Sabah Al-Ahmed took power must lay the legal foundation for the country's economic reform. This government must provide legal coverage for developing the country's oil-production

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capabilities including the vital Northern Fields project. We hope that the government will not waste its time discussing laws that have proven conflicting such as the electoral districts law. As for the press law, the government must recall it and present a draft law that suits Kuwait and its reputation, one that plugs all the loop-holes. The current government will also be in charge of organizing and overseeing the up-coming parliamentary elections, which will be the first one that will include women."

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